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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [LE](#)  
SUBJECT: LEBANESE RESPONSE ON COUNTRY-SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS  
RESOLUTIONS

REF: A. STATE 116270  
[1](#)B. STATE 109397  
[1](#)C. STATE 108921

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i. Thomas F. Daughton for reasons  
1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Charge delivered points in reftels to presidential diplomatic advisor Naji Abi Assi on November 16, asking for Lebanese support in opposing the no-action motion on Iran. Abi Assi indicated that he would bring the U.S. demarche to the attention of Lebanese Permrep Nawaf Salam, but implied that it would be difficult for Lebanon to accommodate the U.S. request. As for the specific suggestion that Lebanon absent itself from the Iran resolution vote, he noted that the permrep's unplanned absence from Iranian President Ahmadinejad's recent UNGA speech caused a local media furor.

[1](#)2. (C) Charge delivered the same demarche to MFA Director General (DepSec equivalent) William Habib on November 17. Habib indicated that he understood the U.S. request, but he believed it unlikely that Lebanon's new foreign minister, still in caretaker status, would change Lebanon's position regarding the Iran resolution so early in his term. (Note: The new FM, Ali al-Shami, is a Shia from a party in parliamentary opposition with Hizballah. End note.) Although Habib said the MFA would "consider seriously" our request, he assessed that it was "not the right moment for even a very small change" on Iran.

DAUGHTON